

House File 526 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 526

BY STONE

A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act relating to social media users under eighteen years
- 2 of age, making penalties applicable, and including
- 3 applicability provisions.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **554G.1 Definitions.**

2 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise
3 requires:

4 1. "*Internet site*" means the same as defined in section 4.1.

5 2. "*Social media account*" means an individualized account
6 that a user uses to access a social media company's internet
7 site.

8 3. "*Social media company*" means a company responsible for
9 operating and maintaining a social media internet site that
10 meets all of the following criteria:

11 a. Allows users, through the creation of pages within
12 the internet site or profiles or by other means, to provide
13 information about themselves that is available to the public
14 or to other users.

15 b. Allows users a mechanism for communication with other
16 users.

17 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. **554G.2 Social media company —**
18 **prohibition on accounts.**

19 A social media company shall not allow an individual younger
20 than eighteen years of age in this state to maintain a social
21 media account on the social media company's internet site. A
22 social media company in violation of this section shall be
23 subject to penalties pursuant to section 554G.3.

24 Sec. 3. NEW SECTION. **554G.3 Civil penalty.**

25 A social media company that violates section 554G.2 shall
26 be subject to a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per
27 violation. A penalty imposed pursuant to this section shall be
28 deposited in the general fund of the state.

29 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **554G.4 Enforcement.**

30 The attorney general may bring a civil action under section
31 554G.2 on behalf of an individual under eighteen years of age
32 who resides in this state and has accessed a social media
33 website.

34 Sec. 5. **APPLICABILITY.** This Act applies to a social media
35 company operating on or after the effective date of this Act.

1 EXPLANATION

2 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
3 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

4 This bill relates to social media users under 18 years of
5 age.

6 The bill defines "internet site", "social media account",
7 and "social media company". The bill defines "social media
8 company" to mean a company responsible for operating and
9 maintaining a social media internet site that allows users to
10 provide information about themselves to specified audiences and
11 allows users to communicate with other users.

12 The bill prohibits an individual younger than 18 years of age
13 from maintaining their own social media account.

14 The bill provides for civil penalties. A social media
15 company in violation of the bill's provisions shall be subject
16 to a fine of \$1,000 per violation. The fine shall be deposited
17 in the general fund of the state.

18 The bill provides that the attorney general may enforce the
19 provisions of the bill.

20 The bill applies to a social media company operating in the
21 state on or after the effective date of the bill.